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Basic Wage AND More Production MEANS Big Dividends for the Boss AND Slow Death for the Workers

The workers receive a minimum wage of £1 5s.

The owners of the job receive dividends:-

"The directors of the Royal Bank of Australia, Ltd., have decided (subject to the audit of the accounts) to recommend to shareholders the payment of a dividend for the six months ended September 30, at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, and to transfer to the reserve fund £25,000.

"The Board of the Perpetual Executors and Trustees' Association of Australia, Ltd., has decided to recommend payment to shareholders of a dividend at the rate of 9 per cent. per annum for the half-year ended September 30 last."

"The directors of Permewan, Wright, and Co., Ltd., have decided to recommend payment for the half-year ended July 31, of a dividend at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum, together with a bonus of 2½ per cent. on the old capital (shares numbered 1 to 50,000) of the company. The new issue of 25,000 shares will not participate in this distribution, but will rank equally with the above shares in future."
—Daily Paper.

Every worker knows what dividends are—something he has not got, but which enable someone else to live well and without toil.

Every worker also knows what a living wage is—a fair thing given to the worker by the employer, for which he must be very grateful. The president of the Federal Arbitration Court has told us exactly how it is determined. As quoted by P. Laidler in "Arbitration and the Strike," he says the minimum wage was "the result of the selected and sifted evidence of THRIFTY and CAREFUL housekeeping women whose husbands were WAGE-EARNERS. When these witnesses came without notes or preparation, they showed how every shilling, ALMOST EVERY PENNY, was earmarked for some NECESSARY commodity. There was NO MARGIN FOR LUXURY OR AMUSEMENTS. Indeed, for any EXCEPTIONAL EXPENDITURE the family had to suffer IN NECESSARIES."

I have emphasised some words as the most important in a passage that shows clearly just how a Basic Wage is arrived at. It is the least wage upon which a small working-class family can exist upon with the utmost economy and thrift.

Judge Beeby, ex-member of the Nationalist Party, and the appointee of the Labor Party of N.S.W., without fear of the "usual charge of unreasoned liberality on the one hand, and of calculated parsimony on the other," has given the decision of the Board of Trade that the basic wage for adult male workers shall be £4 5s. He also stated that "THE FUNCTION OF THE BOARD IS TO FIX THE LOWEST WAGE."

Now, there is one thing upon which the daily press are agreed, that high prices are the outcome of high wages. But Judge Beeby thinks otherwise:-

"Wages were necessarily reflected in prices, but it was idle to say the wage increases of the last four years were by any means solely responsible for the high cost of living. INCREASES IN WAGES HAD during the period mentioned, BEEN MORE THE RESULT THAN THE CAUSE OF HIGH PRICES."

The Board of Trade here states what the Socialist points out all along the line: An increased wage becomes necessary because of an increased cost of living. Furthermore, the workers have no hope of getting an increase in wages UNTIL AFTER the H.C.L. begins to pinch. Thus wages seem to have chased the prices of necessary commodities—and there is no margin for luxury or amusement, said Mr. Higgins. Mr.

Beeby thinks that:

"It is possible that the pinnacle of high prices has been reached, and a decline may set in before the next declaration. When this occurs and a proposal is made to reduce wages, the system will be put to a real test."

This is certainly reassuring to those in search of consolation, and it is to be readily agreed that a system of arbitrarily fixed wages will be put to the test, and will succumb to the greater system of capitalist production. Let us assume the drop in prices, wages remaining fixed. The first result is the increased demand for necessities, and then for "luxuries," and a consequent upward tendency in their prices. Secondly, certain manufacturers will be receiving lower prices for their commodities, while paying a fixed wage, which means a decreased rate of profit. If, however, the manufacturer sells to wholesalers, as most do, the first result would be a loss to the latter, who would cease buying from the manufacturer, but only until the increased demand begins to move the prices upwards. If the manufacturer cannot unload his commodities, his first move would be to produce less, either by short time or by sacking a number of employees. This, as well as the previous case, means an excessive supply on the labor market, greater competition for jobs, and our propertyless wage earner will be forced to work UNDER the award rate, which could then be re-adjusted to meet lower prices, and the economic position of the workers would be such that they could make no effective protest. But this is all upon the assumption that prices have fallen; actually they have not. But it is well to realise how impotent is price-fixing, wage-fixing, etc., by arbitration courts and the like. They are mere play-things of capitalism, the laws of which work inviolate to the end of the system.

Capitalism demands that the worker receive a wage roughly equal to the price of the bare necessities of his existence. At best it only does this on an average for, as Judge Beeby points out, "the Board could not take into account individual families. THE LIVING WAGE UNDOUBTEDLY WAS QUITE INADEQUATE TO MEET THE NEEDS OF A LABORER WITH A LARGE FAMILY."

The man with a large family must even go without necessities, yet we are told to produce more, both of boots we cannot buy and babies we cannot feed.

The fact that price-fixing and wage-fixing is after all futile, and that it attempts to fix something it can in no way control, is finely admitted by Mr. Beeby when reviewing the previous award:

"Notwithstanding the improved wage rate resulting from the last declaration of the Board, it had become apparent during the inquiry that large numbers of wage-earners of the State were on the bare living line. The price inflation which followed that declaration, coupled with lost time, IN MANY CASES RENDERED THE DECLARED MINIMUM INEFFECTIVE."

Should Mr. Beeby be called upon in six months again to determine the Basic Wage, will he not have to say the same thing over again?

At the last N.S.W. State elections the Labor Party joyfully announced that with every increase in the cost of living they would shift the wages that much higher. But surely the Labor Party should anticipate the rise in prices. The very fact that a Labor Party only talks of, and hopes to meet the H.C.L. by higher wages is a clear admission of its impotency to

deal with the things it claims to. Judge Beeby, appointed by the Labor Government, has fixed a MINIMUM wage. Could the Nationalist Government have done less? Thus in vital questions the Labor Party and the Nationalist Party, the action is identical.

Although neither the one party nor the other can possibly accomplish anything of a progressive nature, nor yet display an understanding of the facts with which they are dealing, there is one party that can accomplish something worth while. That "party" is the working-class itself. It will be noticed that the Basic Wage deals with the wage-earners only. The question of wages, prices, and the like, is a question that vitally concerns the wage-earners, and it can be solved by them alone.

But who are they who are not wage-earners? How do they live? First, there are those who receive "salaries," "remuneration," "stipendium"—the business people, the professional workers, the clergy, etc. Then there are the shopkeepers, etc. Finally, there are those who, like Mr. Mark Foy, love Australia so intensely that they spend eighteen months in California, and, of course, WITHOUT WORKING. The first and second groups are workers, each performing a useful function in capitalist society. The latter gentleman and his family belongs to the non-workers, of whom there are not many, and who all OWN PROPERTY, in some form—land, mines, factories, distributing houses, etc.

What do the wage-earners own? Very often, more babies than they provide for decently; clothing that has to be frequently patched, furniture with neither comfort nor beauty; places where they sleep, and prepare and eat the cheapest possible food, owned by people who object to babies. For all of this the workers receive a Basic Wage which, with thrift and economy, enables the worker, who has not got too many babies, to exist. Exceptional expenditure, such as sickness, as Mr. Higgins said, means that the "average family" suffers in NECESSARIES.

The workers also possess something that is a great asset to the capitalist system: the belief that what they receive and have is good enough for them; that they are not fit to have what Mr. Foy and family have. This understanding is given to the workers by their masters willingly, first in the schools, and then in the public libraries, as well as in the newspapers at the small cost of a penny or two. Newspapers are regarded by the Arbitration Court as necessities. Which they are—to the capitalist system.

Every man's solution of this is that those who work should work long and harder, should produce more. But the workers in, say, a boot factory, have no particular interest—nor are they allowed to have any—in the quantity of the boots made, their quality, or their sale. Commodities are to-day produced by the social labor of the propertyless, who are divorced both from the means of producing them as well as from the ownership of the commodities themselves. The workers are content and their function in the capitalist system of production is fulfilled when they have sold their power to labor for, say, eight hours, to the employers for a living wage. The value of their labor, which finds an approximate expression in this living wage, only bears a relation to the total values created in the working period, in so far as it is a part of a whole, and the extent of the whole obviously does not determine the extent of the part. Furthermore, even if greater quantities of commodities were produced in a given time, the aggregate value would still remain the same, other things

(Continued on Page 4.)

The International Socialist

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RAY EVERITT Managing Editor.

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Communist Shop Committees.

It is obvious that the working class is in a position best to understand and to feel the class struggle when working. It is during the hours of their toil that the workers can feel the monotony of their existence, that they are subject to an employer's tyranny, that it is possible for them to realise how subject they are to the commands and needs of others. It is only to be expected, therefore, that the industrial proletariat will play a leading part in the revolt against Capitalism. For this reason, and for the still more important one that it is the proletariat with which we are concerned, the Communist has a duty to perform while on the job.

The duty that lies before the Communist is plain: to gain the workers' support to Communism, in the first instance; and secondly, to influence the non-Communists to the fullest possible extent.

The most efficient and successful way of doing this is by an organisation of what?—of **Communists**. But an organisation of Communists presupposes Communists, and the first task of a Communist worker is to make his fellow workers think as he does.

The more severe the conditions of the workers generally, the more susceptible will they be to Communist propaganda. But the hardness of life will not necessarily bring understanding; hence the work of the Communist is to supplement the facts of our every day existence with an explanation of the root causes of the "evil" and with the Communist solution. There are two ways of doing this. Where freedom of association and other democratic conditions prevail, they should be made use of for open meetings. On the job amongst the workers, every opportunity must be taken for talking Communism. The Communist worker, however, must always look ahead, and in personal propaganda he must first give attention to those who are most likely and suitable for the formation of a Communist group. But propaganda must not only be oral, but must include circulation of literature. He must look to the most serious workers, and with them he must form a group.

But the formation of the group can have no other object than that of the one Communist. The object of the group need not be the control of the job itself so much as the spread of the ideas of Communism. As Communists, the group members will realise that job control is little more than a myth for the proletariat whilst capitalism exists, and the Communists above all else, represent the interests of the proletariat as a whole, and therefore always seek to carry the fight from the narrowness of the job to the open fight against the State.

The group of Communist workers is distinguished from the sympathetic workers by the fact that they realise that co-ordinated activity by the revolutionaries is essential. Consequently, they have no hesitation in working in harmony with and subject to the centralised Communist Party. That a Communist group exists need not be known to all the workers, nor yet to the employers. The Communist is far-seeing, and realises that other conditions may be forced upon them by the master class. Neither need there be formal organisation at the beginning. The finest basis of its work is in a clear Communist understanding on the part of each individual. Nevertheless, the Com-

The Communist Party of Poland.

APPEAL TO EUROPEAN AND AMERICAN
WORKERS.

We, Communists of Poland, say to the workers of Europe:

(1) The Polish workers never had any interest in the attack of Polish militarism on Soviet Russia.

(2) This war is in no way a war for the defence of Polish independence, but for the defence of the domination of Polish and European capitalism at the cost of the blood of the working masses.

(3) The Polish workers see in the Red Army no conquerors, who are threatening their freedom, but an ally in the struggle for their emancipation.

If the Polish proletariat has not yet made an end to this war, that is not because it saw in this war a defence of its freedom, but rather because it is a prisoner in its own land, bound with chains and without any influence upon its rulers.

In no land of Europe, except White Hungary and Roumania of the Black Hundreds, are the working classes so deprived of political freedom as in Poland.

For eighteen months the Polish Government has ruled without a break by means of martial law, which was started by the "Socialist" Government of Morawski. The Communist press cannot appear. The Communist Party must exist illegally. The class-conscious workers have been thrown by thousands into prison and concentration camps and have been condemned to penal servitude on the ground of old laws from Tsarist times and military regulations established by the German and Austrian armies of occupation. Trade union organisations have even been dissolved for leading strikes; trade union newspapers are prosecuted and closed down. On the other hand, the Government allows the social-patriotic Polish Socialist Party an uncontrolled freedom of agitation. This party deceives the workers by its "Socialist" phrases, and pretends to act as their "leaders" with the assistance of the Government to bring the working-class movement off the rails and paralyse the work of the revolutionary Communists.

The Polish workers are not only politically suppressed; they are also economically and socially weakened. The criminal war policy of the Government brings it about that Poland, after having consumed its last stores, is a bankrupt and ruined land. The factories are not running, a million workmen are wandering about unemployed, the proletariat are only partly concentrated in the great industrial centres, the greater part of them are scattered about in remote corners of the land in hunger and misery or have emigrated.

WORKERS OF EUROPE AND AMERICA! The Polish workers, bound in the chains of superior forces, cannot carry through their revolution without your help. They appeal to you for help, but not for such a help as the Polish Government and the social-traitors like Daszynski ask from you. If you want to help in our emancipation, do one thing. **HELP SOVIET RUSSIA!**

Protest ever louder and louder than before against the intervention of your governments in Russia against the support of the Polish counter-revolution with gold and arms.

Boycott all help for the Polish Government. Let no military transport, no ship, and no train with arms and ammunition pass through!

The Polish Government could not exist for a moment if it was not supported, as once Tsarism was supported, by the power of international capitalism!

The chains that bind the Polish workers are not only forged in Warsaw, but also in London and Washington.

TO THE I.W.W.

Special Message from the Communist International (Moscow).

Foreword by TOM GLYNN.

Should be read by every worker. 4d posted.

munists on the job must accept the strict organisation of the Party as a whole.

The organisation of Communist groups must not be confined to the industrial workers, which form but a section of the proletariat as a whole, even though it be the most important section. The concern of the Communist is not with the industrial or the non-industrial workers, but with the proletariat as a whole. Consequently, he will pay equal, if not greater attention to the less advanced sections, so that the rising of the proletariat may be as wide as possible.

This mass rising of the proletariat is essential for a successful revolution, but that the mass of the proletariat will have an understanding of what it must do, is improbable. It is necessary, therefore, that there should be amongst the revolting proletarians those who do understand. Hence the need of Communist groups everywhere.

In an uprising of the proletariat the function of the Communist groups is to influence the masses, to dominate them and to force their actions into the fruitful channels, against the master class, that is, against the political State.

THE Revolutionary Outlook

By MARCIA.

Foreign Agitators?

At a banquet given at the Millions Club, in honour of Mr. Delprat, who is the leading light in the Broken Hill Proprietary Company, it was announced that his nationality is Dutch. Now we realise who the Labor Party, etc. mean, when they talk about foreigners who are a danger to Australia and its people!

What Next?

We see, from the current issue of the "Melbourne Socialist," that the motion which was moved in an endeavour to raise the "Old Show" from the slumber reaction on to the rocks of uncompromising revolutionary principles, has failed.

A majority decided that the "What Nots" show, still be "What Nots."

And we are not surprised, when we think of the attitude of the V.S.P. from its inception, and also all of its leaders, it could hardly be otherwise.

However, what we are concerned about is the tone of the members who voted for the motion. What are they going to do now?

We can only hope that they will not accept passively their defeat; but, while continuing their disruptive tactics so far as the "Old Show" is concerned, form a strong Communist Party, and put it right in the middle of business. A working group of forty individuals, who are prepared to work in support of their principles, will soon throw out tenebroses in all directions and start what is needed everywhere—a strong revolutionary party on scientific principles.

The A.S.P. is the only organisation in Australia affiliated with the Third International, and it is up to those who stand for the Communist International, assist us to build up a strong movement.

Noble Deeds!

"Do noble deeds; not dream them all day long. In other words, vote for the Labor Party." So says Mr. R. S. Ross, in the "Queenstand Worker," 7/10/20.

Here is an individual calling himself a Socialist, urging the workers, in a torrent of words, words, words, to emancipate themselves, by putting in power a party, which, during its last period of existence, sent machine guns against strikers in Townsville.

And he still boldly attempts to hoodwink the workers that he stands in their interest—in their interest, while he supports a party, that stands for a pick-up of the system which enslaves them.

No wonder Lenin, Zinoviev, and others are scathing in their condemnation of "yellow" Socialists such as Ross—misleaders of their class. No wonder also, that the latter denounces the Dictatorship of the Proletariat and calls it "anti-Socialist"; it is easier, safer, and more satisfactory in every way—for those who have no principles to worry about—to pander to the mob by flapping a red flag now and again, and to write articles about the honor of the Labor (?) movement, than to get out into the highways and by-ways and preach Revolution!

A New Revolt!

The Sydney Housewives' Association are considering the advisability of going on strike—refusing to bear children until the price of food drops.

It never occurs to them to do a little thinking and find out why the price of food is increasing, and also that whatever its cost, they will still be on the bread-line—under the present system.

If they did, they might put their energies into a revolutionary movement, and assist in bringing about a state of affairs where production shall be for use, and where there will be abundance of food for every one.

Bolshevism Collapses?

During the last few days we have had lurid accounts of the state of things in Russia; starvation and disease are running riot and above all, Bolshevism collapses, says the Capitalist Press.

Well, knowing what we do of this same press, we are not worried very much; for we realise that the master class of the world are becoming desperate.

The spectre of Bolshevism has assumed gargantuan proportions; moreover, it is no longer merely a spectre, its dry bones are covered with flesh, blood and strength and its mighty hand is stretched out to uproot the members of the master class from their high places and scatter them broadcast.

And the latter know this; they have read the words writing on the wall, and at any cost they are seeking to avert their doom.

The unemployed army in England is growing immense, and starving men and women are apt to take action; and what the capitalist fears is, that this action may become revolutionary.

Just as in Russia the people demanded bread and peace at first, and finally, led by the intelligent minority, demanded and seized the political power and established the Proletarian Dictatorship.

So might a strike or a demand from the unemployed bring about the same result in England or any other

Mobilization for the Class Struggle.

Whilst the war was on it was quite common to be sagely told by casual acquaintances that we were living in great times, and that those who emerged from the Great War would see great changes. Most of these comments were the reflections, gravely repeated as opinions, that had been culled from the magazines and newspapers. Nationalizing of industries and greater freedom for the common run of mankind were assumed on the basis that the war was for Democracy.

It was waged for Democracy; but what democracy meant is only just now dawning on the great mass. Democracy is business, and business has to be democratic in its own peculiar way, which means freedom to buy and sell. The workers, being wares for purchase and sale, must of necessity be subject to the influence of business democracy, and their freedom can permit them to seek the most favourable market for the disposal of their energies. To know that all such markets are controlled by others who are also champions of freedom should quite naturally appeal to those who fought for this principle. Having triumphed for this principle what has become of the great changes predicted? Those who shouted the most about them are the most anxious to hold back. "Wait and see" is now the cry of those who were before crying "Carry on." It is obvious the basis of freedom has changed since those days. Great changes are in view, but not in the way originally assumed.

As the standard of freedom falls from the hands of the capitalist class in order that they may hold aloft the true banner of their class interests, "Representation," the new standard, is unfurled for freedom, and as the eyes of the people look upward to see this flag that now challenges all the forces of repression they see that it is Red. The battle of Democracy is on, and it is this struggle that is ushering in the great change. Behind this Red Flag is being mustered the Iron Battalions of Industrial Democracy, and their cry is now "Carry On." The great recruiting expert, General Economic Conditions, has not his equal in any period of history, and his mobilization orders are being carried out day and night. The battle ground is vast, but in every area the forces are preparing and the drilling is so unconscious to many that they do not realize that the Class War is on. No sound of cannon is heard, except in the skirmish on the Russian front, and occasional manoeuvres arising over the conditions prevailing amongst various units of this great army. Trained experts in the Class Struggle are watching all movements, and some of them are held captive in the dungeon of the enemy. The spies of the enemy are active in all quarters, but as all those forces are coming into being openly in the sight of their masters their services are useless. No sensational posters promise the impossible. The possible is the objective—the ownership and control of the means of life.

Has General Economic Conditions appealed to you?
—H. W., "Western Clarion."

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capitalist country. Consequently, leave no stone unturned to decry Bolshevism, by any means turn away the people's minds from the Soviet system.

Such are very apparent reasons for the latest reports about Russia; but there is one thing we must not forget—if the Russian Communists were to be defeated, what have we done and what are we doing to assist them?

"A little help is worth a deal of sympathy," and the best form of appreciation is imitation.

If the workers of Australia are sincere in their desire to help their Russian comrades, they will put their best efforts towards following their example and bringing about the revolution right here!

A Living Wage!

The new Award is out, and if we are lucky, we shall get an increased wage of 8/- per week. According to Judge Beeby's own statement, prices have gone up 18 per cent., so that to make the standard of living equal to last year we should have received a rise of 15/-. So we see once again a drop in the standard of living; a little less butter on the bread and a little less milk on the porridge.

Added to this, Judge Beeby also admits that the wage is merely sufficient to support a man, his wife and two children—for larger families—they have to manage as best they can.

So we see that Arbitration, the wonderful reform that was to confer such benefits upon us of the working class, merely conforms to the economic system, by keeping us right down on the breadline.

Isn't it time, fellow-workers, that we finished with Arbitration, and Judge Beeby as well?

Points about Capitalism.

THE NATION'S CAPITAL OWNED BY A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE.

The fact that two-thirds of our population have to live on one-third of the National Income is a consequence of the ownership of the greater part of the national undertaking by a small group of people.

The official Death Duty statistics prove that, as I pointed out in "Riches and Poverty":

Year by year, with the regularity of the seasons, about 4,000 persons die leaving between them about £200,000,000 out of total estates declared to be worth about £300,000,000.

The last year for which official figures are available is 1915 (12 months ended March, 1915). In that year: 670,000 persons died.

594,000 left nothing or less than £100 per estate.

75,739 left estates over £100 each.

7,123 left between them £95,000,078.

4,000 left between them £211,593,961.

Thus, the aggregate estates of 670,000 persons amounted to over £300,000,000, but £211,593,961 was about 4,000 rich people.

This amazing result is not the accident of a single year. It is repeated every year, within a very little.

Every year about £300,000,000 is "left" by all those who die. Every year about £200,000,000 is "left" by about 4,000 rich people.

It is a legitimate inference from the Death Duty records that "Riches and Poverty," page 79:

A mere handful of people owns the nation. It is probably true that a group of about 120,000 people, who, with their families, form about one-seventieth part of the population, owns about two-thirds of the entire accumulated wealth of the United Kingdom.

Thus small group of people exercises the real and effective governance of the nation; for those rule who own.

The Manual Workers' Third.

I have made a preliminary estimate of the National Income in 1913, the last year of normal conditions, and here are the broad results—the margin of error is not very great:

In 1913 the population was nearly 46 millions, and the National Income the moderate sum of about £2,150,000,000.

The National Income is the aggregate of all the individual incomes of the country—whether earned or unearned, whether drawn for useful service or reserved as rent, interest, or profit.

It was distributed approximately thus:

British National Income in 1913

	Millions of £
Incomes Over £160 a Year:	
1,100,000 (to 1,200,000) Income Tax payers	1,025
Incomes Not Over £160 a Year:	
Manual Workers (about 15 millions)	775
Other small incomes (about 4 millions)	350
Total (46 million people)	2,150

Observe:—

(1) The Manual Workers, who, with their dependents, accounted for about two-thirds of the entire population, took about one-third of the entire National Income.

(2) The "Other Small Incomes" are those of about 4,000,000 clerks, agents, shop-assistants, shopkeepers, small farmers, clergymen, teachers, &c.

(3) All the people under the Income Tax line, forming with their dependents about 41,000,000 out of 46,000,000 people, drew rather more than one-half of the entire National Income.

(4) The Income Tax payers, with their dependents, forming only about 5,000,000 of the population, drew nearly as much as the remaining 41,000,000.

(5) Of the £1,025,000,000 of incomes over £160, over £700,000,000 was unearned in the sense recognised in the Finance Acts—i.e., it was drawn as rent, interest or dividends, and the greater part of it was taken by a small group of about 300,000 people.

Life Cost of the Competitive System.

Death, injury and disease also have their "Error of Distribution." The 15,000,000 manual workers, who with their dependents, form two-thirds of the population and draw only one-third of the National Income, suffer a high death-rate and are ravaged by tuberculosis, the disease of poverty.

Through the war our official records have been sadly neglected, but here is the account of Industrial Accidents and Disease for 1913:

The "Peace" Battle of 1913.

	Killed	Injured
Factories, Workshops, &c.	1,309	178,852
Mines and Quarries	1,870	184,202
Railways	463	29,247
Ships: Merchant Vessels	886	7,658
Fishing Vessels	303	422
Engineering	32	718
Diseases of Occupation	71	916
Total	4,934	402,015

These figures are very incomplete, and relate to serious and officially reported accidents. A considerable proportion of them are preventable and due to commercialism.

As to disease, a large part of the death-rate is due to bad housing and bad conditions of employment. For example, the Medical Officer of Belfast, in a pre-war report, commenting on the fact that one-third of the mortality of the City was due to lung diseases, said:

"This is not to be wondered at when we remember the nature of the occupations in which so many of our people are engaged and the unhealthy surroundings which environ them."

—Chiozza Money, "Fifty Points About Capitalism."

WHY IS POLAND THE LINCH PIN?

Winston Churchill (God bless him) has said that Poland is the linch-pin of the Treaty of Versailles.

A linch-pin is the wedge that keeps a waggon wheel on its axle. And the term used by Churchill is a very apt one. The capitalist bosses at Versailles parcelled out the earth to north, south, west, and east as far as they could go. But there Russia brought them to a stop. How to fasten their ingenious structure on the east was a mighty problem.

Leave Germany to border on Russia and the whole fruits of victory would be lost. The fruits of victory was the world market, now divisible among one competitor less. The glutting of the world market was the cause of war, and even threatens the capitalist system. A Germany having access to Russia, that vast storehouse of food and raw material, would wreck the whole "structure of peace," as they call it, meaning thereby "the whole structure of capitalism."

So an independent Poland was invented. Poland was the dam wall against Russian Socialism flowing west, and against German capital flowing east.

The Treaty of Versailles was an ingenious but precarious structure. It forgot or failed to make provision for the bursting of the dam. The linch-pin has gone, and the capitalist waggon is in the mud. The disselboom of armed force is broken, and the oxen, the British workers, refuse to pull it any more.

Winston is more far-seeing than the rest. Armed force was the only way to smother the revolution—for a while. Lloyd-George was also right, and also saw further than the rest—peaceful trade was the only way to kill the revolution—for a while. They were both right and both wrong. There was no escape for capitalism. It had produced the revolution just as naturally and inevitably as the hen lays an egg. And of both these stand-backs of capitalism we may say: "It is impossible but that offences will come, but woe unto him through whom they come."

—D.I.J., "The International."

British Labor Sees Petrograd.

British Labour, in the persons of Ben Turner, Bob Williams and Etheld Snowden and others, paid a visit to Soviet Russia during May of this year. Their views as published in the yellow press of this country could not have been taken as indications of their having been either intelligent or observant. Greater justice, however, was done them in the English press, yet the outstanding feature of their reports was a failure to understand, in some cases, the underlying principles of Communism; in others, the methods pursued by the Russian Communists. An expression of the views of the Russian unionists, therefore, upon the occasion of the visit of the delegation should serve to counteract the puerile cables from London, and to aid us in understanding the internal conditions in Soviet Russia. The Soviet Government is itself very keen that the world should know what it does and thinks, and to this end published all matter of international importance in Russian, German, French, and English. The welcoming of the British Labour Delegation in Petrograd was made the occasion of sending a message to the British workers, of explaining the conditions under which Soviet Russia is striving to build a new order.

These speeches of welcome by members of Russian Labour Unions, together with those in reply by Ben Turner and Clifford Allen, and resolutions to the British workers, make a thirty-two page pamphlet of great interest, yet it is not difficult to understand that the Russian speeches are the most interesting, and distinguished by a grip of the situation and by feeling.

The first speech explains a point that is often asked: the difference between Russian and Australian unionism. We read:

"We are not narrow Labour unionists, interested exclusively in economic struggles. We have always believed, with Karl Marx, that every economic struggle is a political struggle. . . . Your unions live, struggle, and develop in the soil of capitalistic relations, in a country where there exists private

